STATE OF NEW YORK

573

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 9, 2019

Introduced by Sens. KENNEDY, ADDABBO, BROOKS, KAMINSKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the administration of exams to students with disabilities

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds that certain students with disabilities are allowed extended testing time according to their individual education program, or perhaps even accommodations provided pursuant to regulations promulgated under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The legislature further finds that these students, as a result of this extended time allowance, are being subjected to ten or eleven straight hours of testing when they are required to take two regents exams on the same date.

The legislature acknowledges the department of education's need for security concerning the substance of the examination. As such, the legislature understands the department's continuing hesitance to allow these students with disabilities to take the exams on days other than which they had been officially scheduled.

However, the benefits of providing these children with respite between each exam far outweighs the potential of one of these students garnering information about the exam from another student who had previously taken the exam. Therefore, it is the intent of this legislature to have the commissioner of education implement a process whereby students with certain disabilities are not required to take more than one regents examination in any given day.

§ 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 319 to read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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§ 319. Examination of students with disabilities. The commissioner shall promulgate regulations establishing guidelines which provide that any child who has extended testing time provisions on his or her individualized education program, or who receives extended testing time accommodations pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, is provided an opportunity to only take one regents examination on any given day.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment, and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the timely implementation of this act on its effective date are hereby authorized to be made on or before such effective date.